

2/25/05



**To: CINMS Advisory Council**

**From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative**

**Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 2/23/05**

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on February 25, 2005. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair (Environmental Defense Center); Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara), Kira Schmidt (SB Channelkeeper); Kara Kemmler (Surfrider Foundation); and Deborah McArdle (Sea Grant, non-voting member). Shiva Polefka (EDC Research Fellow), Sara Polgar (EDC intern), Tracey Duffy (CA Coastal Commission) and Scott Dunn (SAC Recreation Alternate), were also present.  
CINMS Staff: Mike Murray, Anna Chateau.

## **I. INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were made. In addition, an updated CWG contact list was distributed.

## **II. WATER QUALITY**

Shiva presented the draft section of our “Water Quality Needs Assessment” pertaining to the existing *Jurisdictional Framework*. This section of the report presents the existing laws and regulations that deal with water quality at the federal, state, regional and local levels. It also describes the agencies that are responsible for implementing these programs. Finally, this section discusses laws and regulations that apply to certain high priority sources of water pollution. The final report will include recommendations to address gaps or opportunities that exist within the current regulatory framework.

We had a constructive discussion about this section of the report, and the participants offered suggestions to Shiva to incorporate into the final report. Some participants said that they would submit additional information following our meeting. At our next meeting we will discuss the draft section dealing with *Research and Monitoring*.

### **III. FEDERAL MARINE RESERVES**

Mike provided an update and distributed a timeline regarding the environmental review process for considering marine reserves in the federal portion of the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary has asked the Pacific Fisheries Management Council to comment on proposed changes to the Sanctuary's designation document. The PFMCM will be offered the opportunity to draft the new regulations. Once that process is completed (sometime later this year), the Sanctuary will release the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the public and Congress.

### **IV. □ MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Mike also provided an update regarding the status of the Management Plan Update. The process in D.C. is moving along, and hopefully the draft plan and EIS will be forwarded to NOAA and the National Ocean Service in a few weeks. The draft plan and EIS will then be released for public review and comment, hopefully by May.

### **V. □ □ OTHER CINMS ADV. COUNCIL UPDATES & DISCUSSION**

- A. □ □ CINMS/CINP 25th Anniversary: Anna Chateau gave a presentation regarding the event schedule for the Sanctuary's 25th Anniversary. Events include a Fall Gala; participation in the Ventura Seafest and Harbor Festival; a photo contest; benefit concert, sunset cruise, and PSAs that will be shown in local movie theatres.
- B. □ □ LNG – March 1 Forum: Mike distributed a flyer for the March 1 public forum, sponsored by the CINMS and the Ventura Chapter of the League of Women Voters. Speakers at the forum will include representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, State Lands Commission, BHP Billiton, Border Power Plant Working Group, and Environmental Defense Center.
- C. □ □ Aquaculture: Mike reported that there is nothing new to report regarding the proposal to draft guidelines for the National Marine Sanctuaries program, or regarding the Chevron Hubbs Seaworld Platform Grace project.
- D. □ □ Upcoming SAC items of discussion: Mike mentioned the collaborative research project, biogeographic assessment, and possibility of another acoustics presentation and discussion of Notice of Preparation for new acoustics regulations. The CWG expressed interest in knowing when the Sanctuary manager will respond to the acoustics reported adopted in September 2004. May was suggested as a possible time because Angela Heron will have completed her report.

